

Department of Fine and Applied Arts
proudly presents

SONDHEIM MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG A MUSICAL



Music and Lyrics by
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Book by
GEORGE FURTH

Based on the original play by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart

Originally Directed on Broadway by Harold Prince

Originally produced on Broadway by Lord Grade, Martin Starger, Robert Fryer
and Harold Prince in association with Ruth Mitchell and Howard Haines

Director: Dallas Street
Musical Director: D. Scott Ferguson
Lighting Designer: John Page
Scenic Designer: Dallas Street
Technical Director: Martin M. Bluestein
Costume Coordinator: Tonya A. Bernstein

March 7, 8, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 at 8 p.m.
March 16 at 3 p.m.

PARKLAND COLLEGE THEATRE
1997

Cast

Franklin Shepard	Michael O. Cornell
Charley Kringas	Barry Cohen
Mary Flynn	Kerry Kincanon
Terry	Kris Kirkwood*
Scotty	Anjali Asokan
Dory	Shira Laxer
Ru	Jesse Pierce
Jerome	Mark A. Hudson
Jerome (March 15th performance)	Barb Teterycz
K.T.	Elizabeth Fathauer
Meg Kincaid	Kathleen Duffy
Bunker	Brian Dykes
Gussie Carnegie	Lauren Gasparo
TV Newsman	Brian Dykes
TV Newswoman	Susan Fortenberry
Make-Up Artist	Shira Laxer
Joe Josephson	Bill Yauch
Frank Jr	Benjamin Warnock
Judge	Johanna Turpin
Photographer	Brian Dykes
Beth	Mary Eisenhardt
Mr. Spencer	Kris Kirkwood*
Pianist	D. Scott Ferguson/Tim Schirmer
Mrs. Spencer	Susan Fortenberry
1st Girl	Kathleen Duffy
Pit Singer	Barb Teterycz

Merrily We Roll Along is presented in two acts.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Refreshments will be available in the lobby.

Orchestra

Piano/Conductor	D. Scott Ferguson
Reed I	Susan Kraybill
Reed II	Carl Johnson
Reed III	Jennifer Sandland
Reed IV	Kevin Gawthorp
Trumpet I	Ronald Foster
Trumpet II	Joe Hayes
Trumpet III	Ken Wallace
Trombone	Charles Specht
Tuba	Jeremy Conover
Bass	Chris Alwes
Drums	Ethan Deppe
Percussion	Mary E. Myers
Synthesizer	Tim Schirmer

Production Staff

Director	Dallas Street
Musical Director	D. Scott Ferguson
Lighting Designer	John Page
Costume Coordinator	Tonya A. Bernstein
Technical Director	Martin M. Bluestein
Stage Manager	David Dillman
House Manager	Debbi Dillman
Master Electrician	Jeff Durbin*
Audio Operator	Joel Halfwassen
Properties Head	Chris Christenson
Light Board Operator	Justin Tinkle*
Followspot Operator	Sam White
Scenic & Lighting Crew	Kim Aldridge*, Tina Collins, Carol A. Diss, Mark Hudson, Summer King*, Dori Phelps, Sam White,
Stage/Prop Run Crew	Chris Christenson, Chandra Cox*, Amber Wightman*
Costume/Make-Up Run Crew	Elizabeth Hatton, Erica Hess*, Jessica Van Gorden*
Asst. House Manager	Ann Holwedel*

*Theatre scholarship student at Parkland

Director's Notes

Merrily We Roll Along is based on the 1934 Kaufman and Hart play of the same name. It employs the device of telling its story in reverse chronology to illustrate how the characters became what (at the beginning of the show) they have become.

Merrily We Roll Along's score, by Stephen Sondheim, was a departure from his dark, operatic score for *Sweeney Todd* (his previous show), and a return to the brassy showtunes and soaring ballads of *Company* and *Follies*. However, his scores are always tailored to the content of each musical's material, in this case George Furth's witty and reflective book.

Merrily We Roll Along is the story of Franklin Shepard, a composer, who betrays his art of writing for the theatre for the success of movie-making. Spanning 20 years (1976 - 1957), we are shown Frank's dilemma of art vs. commercialism, the choices he must make and the repercussions they have on his two closest friends and those who surround him. Sondheim has said of the show and its time period "*Merrily We Roll Along* is about values that I think are perennial, and I think it's relevant to all times even though it deals with a specific time period."

The original Broadway production in 1981 was the most troubled and problematic of Sondheim's career. Although the creative team of Sondheim, Furth, and Harold Prince (director) kept working and improving on the show during previews, *Merrily We Roll Along* only lasted a disappointing 16 performances. However, *Merrily We Roll Along* is the musical that refuses to die! Having gone through numerous revisions since its original Broadway outing, *Merrily* has been considerably restructured and clarified by Sondheim and Furth. Major revivals have occurred in La Jolla ('85), Washington, D.C. ('90), London ('92), and New York City ('94) as to not let this bittersweet, heartwarming, and heartbreaking show slip into obscurity in musical theatre history. With the 1994 York Theatre version, the version we proudly present tonight, *Merrily We Roll Along* has finally achieved its final revision and its voice. Thank you for coming!

— D.S.

Cast Profiles

Anjali Asokan (Scotty) Anjali is excited to be performing in her second show at Parkland. Recent roles include Maria Washington and Mrs. D'Angelo in *Quilt*, Miss Sweetsong in *The Impresario*, and Carrie in CUTC's production of *Carousel*. Hopefully this summer she'll be off at a distant location performing after which she will (finally) graduate with a voice performance degree from the University of Illinois.

Barry Cohen (Charley Kringas) Barry is a senior studying voice at the University of Illinois. He is very happy to finally "do" a Sondheim show. His favorite roles include Claude in *Hair*, Che in *Evita*, and Herrod in *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Michael O. Cornell (Franklin Shepard) Michael returns to the Parkland stage after an eight-year hiatus. He is thankful that *Merrily* has more costumes than *Chicago*. Michael was last seen as Principle Dancer in *Carousel* at the Virginia Theatre. He would like to thank Angela, Kinzie, and Cameron for being so supportive for his other love, the theatre.

Kathleen Duffy (Meg Kincaid, 1st Girl) Kathleen is a vocal performance major at the University of Illinois. She has previously been seen in *Sunday in the Park with George* as Dot, *Guys and Dolls* as Sarah Brown, and *Sweeney Todd* as Mrs. Lovett. Kathleen looks forward to many other performing opportunities.

Brian Dykes (Bunker, TV Newsmen, Photographer) This is Brian's first show at Parkland College. He is happy to be a member of the cast. Brian would like to thank Dallas for this opportunity.

Mary Eisenhardt (Beth) Originally from Arlington Heights, IL, Mary is a senior in Music Education/Vocal Performance at the University of Illinois. Parkland audiences may remember her as Lucy in *Sweeney Todd* (if not her picture's in the lobby). Some of her favorite past roles include Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls* (CUTC), Appassionata Von Climax in *L'il Abner* (Sunshine Dinner Playhouse), and Sheila in *Hair* (IUB). Mary also served as vocal director for IUB's production of *A Chorus Line* last fall. She'd like to thank the Boys of Barry: Kip, Ryan, and Justin for outstanding love and best friendage, Laxer for asking me if... you know..., her parents for their love and support, Tony Danza, and Share for being Share.

Elizabeth Fathauer (K.T.) Elizabeth is a graduate of Parkland College Visual Arts program. She appeared last fall in Parkland's production of *Quilt* and has sung with the Parkland Camerata and the University of Illinois Chorale. A devoted Stephen Sondheim fan, she's delighted to finally be in her first Sondheim show.

Susan Fortenberry (Mrs. Spencer, TV Newswoman) Susan, daughter of Judy and Joe Fortenberry, is delighted to be in her fourth play at Parkland College. Her most recent roles at Parkland include Sue Ann in *Quilt* and Ma in *Mrs. Coney*. She is currently in the Business Marketing program at Parkland and works as a consumer loan rep at Central Illinois Bank.

Lauren Gasparo (Gussie Carnegie) Lauren Gasparo is a first-year MFA acting student at the University of Illinois. Last month Lauren performed as Julia in The Station's production of *The Fourth Wall*. She was also seen as Beauty in the IRT's production of *The Masque of Beauty and the Beast*. Other credits include Heidi in *The Heidi Chronicles*, Francisca in *Measure for Measure and Interview* (from *American Hurrah*) at Cornell University, Antoinette in *A Flea in Her Ear* in California, and *Fear and Misery in the Third Reich* in London.

Mark A. Hudson (Jerome) After receiving his BS in Music Education from Western Illinois University, Mark spent 12 years teaching 1st through 12th grade general and choral music in Illinois schools including direction/choreography of successful, competing show choirs and directing/staging/choreographing 10 musical productions including *West Side Story*, *Grease*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Guys and Dolls*. He performed in various community and college theatre productions of *Once Upon a Mattress* (Dauntless), *The Star Spangled Girl*, *Guys and Dolls*, *My Fair Lady*, and *The Music Man* (Harold Hill). He has spent time with summer dinner theatre productions specifically in the part of Ravenal in *Show Boat*. While working with a major airline, Mark continued his music work serving as judge and clinician for various show choirs and competitions in the Midwest and on the East coast as well as writing/arranging for various high school groups. It has always been his goal to receive a Master of Fine Arts in performance while pursuing a writing/arranging career which he has continued to do. Presently Mark is a part-time student at Parkland taking computer composition classes and professional recording studio classes.

Kerry Kincanon (Mary Flynn) Kerry Kincanon is a Vocal Performance/Music Education major at the University of Illinois and is jazzed about performing on the Parkland stage in *Merrily*. Kerry has been seen locally in IOT's *Carmen* and *La Canterina* and is also an infamous Karaoke singer about town. Other roles Kerry has performed are Lady Larken in *Once Upon a Mattress*, Sonia in *Godspell*, and Fruma Sarah in *Fiddler on the Roof* (CUTC at the Virginia). When and if she graduates, she hopes to grace the stages of Broadway, the Met, and Second City (if at all humanly possible).

Kris Kirkwood (Terry, Mr. Spencer) Kris is enjoying his second show at Parkland College and looks forward to many more. Kris made his Parkland debut in *Quilt* and the Parkland College Improv Group. He has found that he enjoys music and the theatre so much that he someday hopes to teach it.

Shira Laxer (Dory, Make-Up Artist) Laxer is very excited to be back on stage performing in *Merrily*. She would like to thank her parents for their love and support and tell her friends to "eat my shorts!"

Jesse Pierce (Ru) Jesse stretches to many aspects of performance - and is thrilled to be back on stage in this amazing piece. Jesse spends most of his time choreographing show choirs and community theatre. Currently he is resident choreographer for North Ridge Redcoats, Danville High School Contemporalls, North Ridge Rockin Reds, and Covington Jr. High's Rockin Revolution. This spring he will choreograph the following shows for community theatre and/or school organizations: *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Brigadoon*. This summer Jesse will perform and choreograph in Rogers and Hammerstein's *A Grand Night For Singing*, and *Guys and Dolls* - the first season of the newly formed Beef House Dinner Theatre in Covington, Indiana. Thanks Mom for all your enlightened thoughts and endless support!

Barbara Ann Teterycz (Pit Singer) Barb has appeared in numerous productions around Champaign-Urbana. At Parkland, she appeared in *Sweeney Todd* and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. At the Station Theatre she appeared in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and *Six Women with Brain Death*. She portrayed Mrs. Vitale in *Tony and Tina's Wedding* and was most recently seen as the evil warden Alice Edmonds in *Caged Vixens*. Barb also co-starred as the lovable Babe in *Queen of Bingo* at the Sunshine Dinner Playhouse. She's a graduate of Second City Training Center and Players Workshop of Chicago. Love and kisses to Bob, Charlie, and Sam.

Benjamin Warnock (Frank, Jr.) Benjamin has spent most of his ten years in Kenya, Africa. After moving to Champaign last year, he joined the Central Illinois Children's Choir and began playing trombone in the Bottenfield school band. He has been studying piano for three years.

Bill Yauch (Joe Josephson) Bill returns to the Parkland stage as Joe, having previously appeared in *Lucky Stiff*, *Labors of Love*, and as a hillbilly musician in *Mrs. Coney*. Other past favorite roles include Father Mark in *Tony and Tina's Wedding* and William Blore in *Ten Little Indians* at the Station Theatre. Bill most recently appeared at the Station Theatre as Roger in *The Fourth Wall* last month. He has also worked as a set and lighting designer at the Station, in real life works for a video production company, and sometimes gets to see his wife, Mary. Thanks Mary.

Staff Profiles

Dallas Street (Director) Dallas is thrilled to be directing at Parkland College again. He last directed Parkland's *Lucky Stiff* in the fall of 1995. Other directing credits include *The Secret Garden* at the Station Theatre and Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* at the Assembly Hall. When Dallas is not directing he can usually be found at the Sunshine Dinner Playhouse where he has performed in *Forever Plaid*, *The Odd Couple*, *L'il Abner*, *Something's Afoot*, and *The Rainmaker*. He would like to thank you for coming and reinforce that *Merrily* moves backwards.

D. Scott Ferguson (Musical Director) D. Scott has most recently toured with *Kiss of the SpiderWoman*. He has also performed with the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes and the Moody Blues. Parkland credits include *Labors of Love*, *Lucky Stiff*, *The Real Inspector Hound*, and the title role in *Sweeney Todd*. D. Scott has a master's degree in Accompanying and Coaching from the University of Illinois.

Martin M. Bluestein (Technical Director) This production is Martin's twenty-fourth as Staff Technical Director for Parkland's Theatre. Prior to coming here, he was Technical Director for The Juilliard School in New York and The Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts. He has provided technical design and direction for productions in Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New England; receiving several awards for his work. He has been invited to serve as a Delegate and Citizen Ambassador, to share ideas and concepts in technical design and production, in Russia and Hungary this spring and/or the People's Republic of China this summer.

John Page (Lighting Designer) This is John's second Parkland production, having designed the lighting for *Lucky Stiff*. John works at the University of Illinois Assembly Hall, designing lighting as well as other fun stuff. John wishes to thank Randi, Dallas, David, and Beth.

Tonya A. Bernstein (Costume Coordinator) Tonya is a graduate of the University of Illinois Theatre program in Costume Design. Her previous credits include designing costumes for the Armory Free Theatre productions of *The Island* and *In The Wine Time*, as well as the Illinois Drama Theatre production of *Flyin' West*. She also served as the costume coordinator for the Illinois Opera Theatre production of *Don Giovanni*.

David Dillman (Stage Manager) Dave has appeared both on stage and behind the scenes in several productions at Parkland College and is happy to be back at Parkland stage managing for *Merrily*. His next role at Parkland will be on stage in *Drop Dead!* He hopes to attend the University of Illinois in the fall. Thanks again to my wife Debbi for her love, support, and encouragement.

Acknowledgments

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Station Theatre
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Mildred Christenson

Contributors

The following individuals are very important participants in the financial success of Parkland College Theatre. We proudly acknowledge our contributors.

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For information about how to join this special group, please call 351-2476.

Theatre Staff

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Technical Director *Martin M. Bluestein*
House Manager *Debbi Dillman*
Special Events Technicians *Darren Cloud, David Dillman, Jeff Durbin*,
Ford Twaranovica, Teresa Van Wakeman*

Theatre Advisory Board

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Tickets

All seats for theatre events are available by reservation. Telephone reservations may be made by calling 351-2528. Discount prices are available to students, school children, senior citizens, and organized groups of fifteen or more. Inquire about our special group rates by calling the theatre's house manager at 351-2476.

Parking

Parking lots C4 and M1 are adjacent to the theatre.

House Policies

Taking photographs or using recording devices during the performance is strictly prohibited. In consideration of our seated patrons and performers, latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the house manager.

Please, no eating, drinking, or smoking in the theatre. Cough drops are available from the ushers as a courtesy to our patrons.

Contributions

Donation of clothing, furniture, hats, jewelry, shoes, and other accessories are appreciated for use in our theatre productions and may be arranged by calling 351-2531.

For additional information about performance events, directions, tours, and parking, please call the theatre at 351-2476.

Comments

Your opinions are very important to us! If you have a compliment, criticism, or suggestion, please call us at 351-2529 or write to Parkland College Theatre, 2400 West Bradley Avenue, Champaign, IL 61821-1899.

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